

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

SUPPORT FOR THE CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Support for the claim amendments may be found in the specification, for example, on page 5 lines 15-20, page 6 lines 3-6 and FIGS. 1-3 and 5 , as originally filed. Thus, no new matter has been added.

CLAIM OBJECTION

The objection of claims 1-12 for informalities has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 1, 4-13 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Brooks '642 and the AMBA Specification Revision 2.0 has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1, 13 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pickett et al. '395 (hereafter Pickett) has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1, 13 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Furuta '239 has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

Brooks concerns a system and method for providing an improved synchronous operation of an advanced peripheral bus with backwards compatibility microcontroller bus architecture (Title). The AMBA Specification concerns an Advanced Microcontroller Bus Architecture. Pickett concerns an interface circuit for interfacing a peripheral device with a microprocessor operating in either a synchronous or an asynchronous mode (Title). Furuta concerns a method and apparatus for processing a target retry from a PCI target device using a PCI/ISA bridge (Title).

Claim 1 provides a bus comprising a slave interface connectable to a slave device external to the bus and configured to (i) present a command signal to a slave device with a standard timing relationship to a first clock edge (of a system clock) and (ii) present an early command signal to the slave device with an early timing relationship to the first clock edge. In contrast, each of Brooks, the AMBA specification, Pickett and Furuta appear to be silent regarding a presentation of both (i) an early command signal with an early timing relationship and (ii) a command signal with a standard timing relationship to a slave interface of a bus. Therefore, none of Brooks, the AMBA specification, Pickett or

Furuta appear to disclose or suggest a slave interface of a bus as presently claimed.

Claim 1 further provides the bus comprising a control logic configured to (i) register the early command signal with a first clock edge to generate the command signal (at the slave interface) and (ii) multiplex the early command signal to the slave interface. In contrast, each of Brooks, the AMBA specification, Pickett and Furuta appear to be silent regarding (i) both registering and multiplexing an early command signal and (ii) presenting both the registered command signal and the multiplexed early address signal to the slave interface. Therefore, none of Brooks, the AMBA specification, Pickett or Furuta appear to disclose or suggest a control logic as presently claimed. Claims 13 and 20 provide language similar to claim 1. As such, the claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejections should be withdrawn.

Claims 4-12 and 16-19 depended from independent claims 1 and 13, which are now believed to be allowable. Since the dependent claims contain all of the limitations of the independent claims, claims 4-12 and 16-19 are fully patentable over the cited references and the rejections should be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claims 2 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooks in view of Catlin et al. '518 (hereinafter Catlin) has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 3 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooks and Catlin in further view of Honma '662 has been obviated in part by appropriate amendment, is respectfully traversed in part, and should be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 3, 14 and 15 depended from independent claims 1 and 13, which are now believed to be allowable. Since the dependent claims contain all of the limitations of the independent claims, claims 2, 3, 14 and 15 are fully patentable over the cited references and the rejections should be withdrawn.

Honma and Brooks are non-analogous art per their US classifications. No reason appears to exist why one of ordinary skill in the art working either (i) in the field of Applicant's endeavor or (ii) on a problem reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the Applicant was concerned would even be aware of Honma. Absent any other explanation, the selection of Honma appears to be improperly based on the claim language itself. Therefore, the proposed combination of Brooks, Catlin and Honma cannot be not obvious.

Claim 3 provides the control logic is further configured to inhibit a device select signal in response to a no-address signal. Despite the assertion in the Office Action, Honma does not appear to teach a signal similar to the claimed no-address signal. In contrast, column 6, lines 35-38 of Honma merely state that a chip select signal CS (asserted similar to the claimed device select signal) is generated by a signal generation part 20. Honma does not appear to teach a "no-address" type signal that causes the signal generator part 20 to inhibit the signal CS. Therefore, Brooks, Catlin and Honma, alone or in combination, do not teach a no-address signal as presently claimed. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to either (i) clearly identify the signal of Honma asserted similar to the claimed no-address signal or (ii) withdraw the rejection.

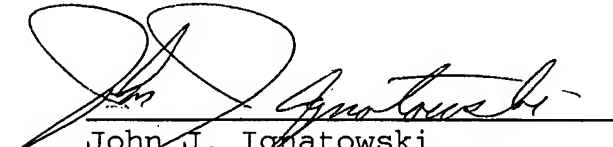
Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicant's representative at 586-498-0670 should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge Deposit
Account No. 12-2252.

Respectfully submitted,

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